

HANDBOOK OF PHONOLOGICAL DATA
FROM A SAMPLE OF THE WORLD'S LANGUAGES

A Report of the Stanford Phonology Archive

Compiled and edited by

John H. Crothers
James P. Lorentz
Donald A. Sherman
Marilyn M. Vihman

435 Khasi	435 Khasi	435 Khasi
435 01 p ⁰¹ [p-unreleased] ⁶⁰ (allo,neutral)	12 m [m-syllabic] ⁶²	[e-long] ⁶³ (free) [epsilon] ⁶⁶ [epsilon-long] ⁶⁵
435 02 p-aspirated ⁰¹ [phi] ⁶¹ (free)	13 n [n-syllabic] ⁶²	53 a (tag(-),free) */a-long/
435 03 b ⁰¹	14 n-palatal	54 a-long ³¹ *[a]
435 04 t ⁰¹ [t-unreleased] ⁶⁰ (allo,neutral)	15 eng [eng-syllabic] ⁶²	55 u [u-long] ⁶³ (free) [upsilon] ⁶⁴
435 05 t-aspirated ⁰¹	16 l-retroflex [l-retroflex-syllabic] ⁶²	56 o [o-long] ⁶³ (free) [o-open] ⁶⁸ [o-open-long] ⁶⁷
435 06 d ⁰¹	17 r-trill [r-trill-syllabic] ⁶²	57 iota-glide ⁰³ [iota-glide-voiceless] ⁶⁹
435 07 k ⁰¹ [k-unreleased] ⁶⁰ (allo,neutral)	18 glottal stop ³⁰	58 upsilon-glide ^{03 04}
435 08 k-aspirated ⁰¹	19 h	59 schwa ³² (transitional)
435 09 d/z-hacek [c-unreleased] ⁶⁰	51 i [i-long] ⁶³ (free) [iota] ⁶⁴	
435 10 s	52 e	
435 11 s-hacek		

- 435 \$a Khasi \$d Mon-Khmer \$e Assam, India \$f 200,000 \$g Jim Bauman \$g Marilyn Vihman (review) \$g John Crothers (editor)
- 435 \$a Rabel, Lili \$b 1961 \$c Khasi, a language of Assam \$f (Louisiana State University Studies, Humanities Series, No.10) \$g Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press \$q informants \$r 2 years
- 435 \$a INTONATION \$A Utterance final intonation is characterized by a low-falling pitch on the last syllable. Other syllables are on a mid pitch. Question intonation is characterized by "a sharp rise in pitch on the last syllable and/or a high pitch on the [penultimate syllable] with [low falling] pitch on the next." (p.35) Before a pause in a continuing utterance the intonation is characterized by "a series of pitches gradually falling from mid to low and a quick rise from low to mid on the [final] syllable." (p.36) Consult the source (p.33-37) for further details.
- 435 \$a STRESS \$A Stress predictably occurs on the last syllable of a word. In disyllables the penultimate syllable is unstressed if "light" (consonant plus short vowel), otherwise it is "half-stressed." In trisyllables "the first syllable has more stress than the second, but less than the last." (p.34)
- 435 \$a SYLLABLE \$A C(C)V(C) \$A "Minor syllables," which are restricted to certain grammatical morphemes, consist of a syllabic sonorant preceded or followed by C. \$A final C: unreleased stops, glides, /m, n, eng, r-trill, s, s-hacek/, also /l-retroflex/ in some loans (p.15-29)
- 435 \$a VOWELS \$A Rabel's analysis of the Khasi vowel system is peculiar. The phonemes she sets up bear little relationship to the phones and their distribution as described by her. In her phonemic analysis (p.13) there are five long and five short vowels. However, it is clear from the examples and discussion of distribution that vowel length is distinctive only for the low vowel. Otherwise vowels are long finally and before /r-trill/, and short elsewhere. Rabel also uses a phonemic distinction in length to indicate a purely qualitative distinction. She analyzes the difference between final [i-long] and [e-long] and the difference between final [u-long] and [o-long] as /i.i/ vs. /i/ and /u.u/ vs. /u/ respectively, when the obvious analysis would be to call them /i/ and /e/, /u/ and /o/ respectively. The vowel system as presented by the Archive is a reanalysis along these lines. [JHC]
- 435 01 \$A "There is no noticeable distinction between tenseness and laxness in the three stop series. [i.e. voiceless-unaspirated, voiceless-aspirated, and voice-unaspirated]." (p.2)

- 435 03 \$A "The vocalic off-glides often go off into voicelessness." (p.9).
- 435 04 \$A "As an on-glide [/upsilon-glide/] is fully voiced and frictionless." (p.11)
- 435 30 \$A Rabel lists the sequence [glottal stop.schwa] as an allophone occurring before sonorants. (cf. p.2) This sequence has been reinterpreted here as reflecting the syllabicity of the sonorant following a consonant (cf. p.4). [JB]
- 435 31 \$A In final position some morphemes have /a/, others have /a/ in variation with /a-long/.
- 435 32 \$A /schwa/ occurs between a word initial sonorant and another consonant. (p.4)
- 435 60 \$A Voiceless stops and the affricate become voiceless unreleased stops in final position. (The stop series are neutralized here.)
- 435 61 \$A [phi] freely varies with [p-aspirated]. "It is used infrequently, sometimes in assimilation to a preceding spirant." (p.3)
- 435 62 \$A Sonorants become syllabic when they occur between a consonant and a following sonorant.
- 435 63 \$A It appears that final vowels are, or may be, lengthened. Rabel sometimes writes length and sometimes does not.
- 435 64 \$A /i, u/ are lowered before syllable final consonants other than /glottal stop/.
- 435 65 \$A /e/ is realized as [epsilon-long] before syllable final consonants, except /r-trill/, and possibly /m/.
- 435 66 \$A /e/ is realized as [epsilon] before syllable final /r-trill/ and possibly /m/.
- 435 67 \$A /o/ is realized as [o-open-long] before syllable final consonants, except /r-trill/.
- 435 68 \$A /o/ is realized as [o-open] before syllable final /r-trill/.
- 435 69 \$A /iota-glide/ is voiceless between [h] and /u/. (p.10)